

Aspect Study Tours

A case study of AWWA Singapore's visit to the world's largest autism-specific school system.

Background

In early 2024, AWWA, a leading disability service and education provider in Singapore, sought to enhance its autism-inclusive education practices. Recognising Aspect (Autism Spectrum Australia) as a global leader in autism-specific education, AWWA partnered with Aspect to co-design and participate in two immersive study tours in New South Wales, Australia. This collaboration brought two delegations of AWWA leaders, teachers, and therapists to Australia:

- November 2024 tour: 16 participants
- June 2025 tour: 17 participants.

Each five-day tour was tailored to build the capacity of AWWA's educators through exposure to innovative, evidence-based practices in inclusive education. Participants engaged in school visits, professional learning workshops, and strategic planning sessions interacting directly with Aspect educators, school leaders and students as well as Autistic staff and those with lived experience.

1. Professional learning and practice change

The tours delivered measurable outcomes for AWWA's educators and broader school communities.

November 2024 tour outcomes:

- 91% of teachers increased their use of strengths-based strategies
- 80% of students reported that their teachers better understood their autism
- 97% of staff felt their school became more welcoming to visitors

June 2025 tour outcomes:

- 100% reported greater confidence in including Autistic voices in decision-making
- 100% learned new strategies to support sensory and communication needs
- 100% felt capable of coaching peers on using student profiles for curriculum differentiation
- 100% expressed high satisfaction, describing the tour as "enriching, informative, and transformative"



"The program was specifically designed to strengthen the capacity of international educators in autism-inclusive education and showcased Aspect's innovative, evidence-based practices through hands-on experiences with key strategies, including the use of data walls, Instructional Case Management Meetings (ICMMs), and the Autism Friendly Schools Framework."

– SENIOR LEADER, AWWA SCHOOL @ NAPIRI

2. From learning to action: Implementation of Project Inspire

Following the November tour, AWWA launched Project Inspire, a school-wide innovation initiative to embed the strategies and learnings from the study tour into their organisation.

Key initiatives included:

- Piloting structured teaching across seven classrooms.
- Developing live data walls to monitor student progress.
- Implementing person-centred planning using the Five Point Star framework.
- Reimagining classroom environments to better support sensory needs.
- Conducting teacher self-assessments, which showed increased confidence in data use and instructional planning.

"Since our first tour, we've seen genuine embedding of these strategies across AWWA. Inclusive practices have improved, data is driving strategic decisions, and Autistic perspectives are more deeply integrated into our policies and programs." — SENIOR LEADER, AWWA

3. Cultural and organisational change

Aspect's emphasis on collaboration, data-informed decision-making, and inclusion of autistic voices inspired AWWA to adopt similar values. The tours fostered a shared project identity and consistent messaging, which were instrumental in driving internal change.

As the feedback noted:

"One of the standout aspects of Aspect's approach was their ability to model and foster cultural change around collaboration and data-informed decision making."

The June 2025 tour was refined based on feedback from the first cohort, allowing for additional school visits and more time for planning and reflection.

"Staff that joined the recent June 2025 Study Tour have returned from their experience with a greater understanding of how they can engage with 'Project Inspire'. Motivation is high and discussions have already begun on ways to further enhance collaborative practice and ensure autism friendly spaces and inclusion of autistic voice in our school practices."

4. Partnership in autism education

The collaboration between Aspect and AWWA has evolved into a sustained partnership. The iterative design of the second tour demonstrated responsiveness to participant feedback and a commitment to continuous improvement.

5. Sustainability and broader Impact

The innovations introduced through Project Inspire are now being scaled across AWWA's schools and shared with broader networks in Singapore. The program has catalysed a shift in how AWWA approaches inclusive education, with a focus on sustainability, staff empowerment, and student-centred planning.

A senior leader concluded:

"We commend Aspect's commitment to innovation, knowledge-sharing, and genuine partnership. Their work is advancing global practice in inclusive education, and the outcomes of our collaboration continue to deliver sustained value for our organisation."

Conclusion: A model of a meaningful collaboration

The AWWA-Aspect partnership demonstrates the power of intentional, values-aligned collaboration in transforming educational practice, not just within schools, but across entire organisations and systems. By combining deep expertise, cultural humility, and a shared commitment to inclusion, both teams have co-created a model of professional learning with lasting impact.

The success of these study tours illustrates what is possible when professional learning is grounded in real-world practice. From changes in classroom environments to shifts in organisational culture, the benefits of this partnership will be felt in both Singapore and Australia.

At Aspect, we are proud to walk alongside international partners like AWWA on their journeys to build more inclusive, autism-friendly education systems. As this case study shows, these tours are more than just learning experiences, they are catalysts for sustainable, systemic change.

For further
information about
Aspect Study
Tours visit

